GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
WADHWA COMMITTEE REPORT ON PDS
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Biswal Shri Hemanand ;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the evaluation/review of Public Distribution System (PDS)/Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by the Wadhwa Committee and other agencies have indicated the prevalence of corruption and diversion of subsidised foodgrains in several States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the remedial measures taken to check such corruption in PDS; and

(d) the action taken against the States that have failed to file affidavits giving details about the functioning of PDS in their respective State during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): Evaluation studies on implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been got conducted from time to time. These studies have indicated certain shortcomings such as leakage/diversion, inclusion/exclusion errors, prevalence of bogus/ineligible ration cards, etc.

Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) with Justice D.P.Wadhwa as Chairman was set up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to look into maladies affecting functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) and to suggest remedial measures. The CVC has submitted reports in respect of 22 States/UTs and also a report on Computerization of TPDS to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. In these reports, CVC has referred to deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS such as inclusion and exclusion errors, bogus/ineligible ration cards being in circulation, beneficiaries not getting their entitled quota of foodgrains and allotment of fair price shops in an arbitrary manner.

Government has issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Government has regularly reviewed and also has issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

(d) Whenever required, Union of India and the States/UTs among others have been filing affidavits in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196/2001-PUCL Vs Union of India and Others. Action against States for non-filing of affidavits does not lie with the Central Government as the matter rests between the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the respective parties to the above Writ Petition.